

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hidemitsu Aoki, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND
APPARATUS FOR CLEANING
SUBSTRATE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

☒

This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action¹.

☐

This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action².

¹ The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 CFR § 1.97(e).

² The IDS *must* include *either* a certification under 37 CFR § 1.97(e) *or* the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

- ☐ This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action but before the payment of the Final Fee³.

Certifications:

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

- ☐ Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; and/or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

- ☐ Statement under 37 CFR 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Fee Required by 37 CFR 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2):

- ☐ If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is attached.

³ The IDS must include both a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) *and* the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Materiality:

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215, under Order No. P8375.0002. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: October 8, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attorney for Applicant

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | Concurrently Herewith |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Hidemitsu Aoki |
| | | | | Art Unit | N/A |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | P8375.0002 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | BA | JP-11-214350 | 08-06-1999 | | | |
| | BB | JP-11-204491 | 07-30-1999 | | | |
| | BC | JP-2000-058498 | 02-25-2000 | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.